

began to work with the city's Planning Department on a wide array of things, including reviewing development applications and supervising the city's Code Enforcement Program.

In 1995, Bob became the Director of Governmental Affairs for Recyc, Inc, where his experience eventually led him to become the Vice President of its parent Company, Gro West. His extensive work and specialization in Mining and Land Development, Heavy Equipment Rentals, and Wholesale Nurseries created an environment for tremendous growth within the region. In 2001, Bob expanded his experience in the field by accepting a position as Executive Officer for Forest Wood Fiber Products. His management style demonstrated through his roles in the business community led him to win a seat on the Lake Elsinore City Council in 2003. He would go on to win a second term in 2008, where he was selected by his colleagues to serve as the Lake Elsinore City Mayor, a position he has held four times.

It is hard to imagine that Bob would have any free time on his hands, yet has he always found time for his community. Bob was a Little League Baseball coach for virtually a decade during the 1990s, and prioritized public safety by organizing and instituting Neighborhood Watch groups throughout the area. He served as Vice Chairman of the County's Historical Commission, Chairman of the Lakeland Village Advisory Committee, Chairman of the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and as Chairman of the RCTC's Budget Subcommittee. He is also a dedicated member of the Riverside County Solid Waste Advisory Task Force, the Lake Elsinore Redevelopment Committee, the State Route 91 Advisory Committee, the Wells Fargo Inland Empire Community Board, and the Riverside County Republican Central Committee.

For all that he has done, it is no surprise that Bob has been the recipient of numerous community awards including being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce in 2005, "Distinguished Citizen of the Year" by the Tahquitz District of the Boy Scouts of America in 2010, and being appointed to the State Board of Fire Services by then Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In his spare time, Bob enjoys off-road racing, riding motorcycles, golf, tennis and walking his dog. He and his wife, Gina, live in Lake Elsinore where they enjoy cheering on their son, Richard, who is serving in the United States Army.

Considering all that Bob has done for Lake Elsinore, the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce named him their 2013 John Packman Award recipient. Bob's tireless passion for service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. He has been the heart and soul of many organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR DEBBIE RICH RECIPIENT OF
THE 2014 PHYLLIS EHLINGER
WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbie Rich, chief executive officer of the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona, who has been named winner of the 2014 Phyllis Ehlinger Women of Excellence Award by the Tucson Chapter of the American Advertising Federation.

This prestigious award recognizes a local woman who is a business owner or executive and who has demonstrated success within her industry, along with a dedication to philanthropy and mentoring.

Debbie is a former Girl Scout herself who today leads an organization that serves more than 15,000 girls and has more than 2,500 adult volunteers in Pima, Cochise, Greenlee, Yuma and Santa Cruz counties as well as southern parts of Graham, Maricopa and Pinal counties.

To meet the demand for services in Southern Arizona's underserved communities, Debbie created an innovative program using women students at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College as troop leaders. This has become a program beneficial both for the young scouts and also for the students who serve as their mentors and role models. To date, it is the only Girl Scout organization in the Nation to use this model.

Also under Debbie's leadership, Girl Scouts in Southern Arizona are addressing serious contemporary issues such as poverty, illiteracy, hunger, homelessness and violence.

Debbie's programs have become so successful and popular that the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona now requires more space to fulfill its mission. There soon will be an enlarged campus with meeting rooms, science labs, a demonstration kitchen, a digital media lab and a gym.

Debbie has said that her goal is to motivate every girl in our community to be the best that she can be. Debbie herself has set a sterling example for the Girl Scouts who will come after her.

I am proud to recognize Debbie Rich on the occasion of her selection as recipient of the 2014 Phyllis Ehlinger Women of Excellence Award.

HONORING THE NORTH
THOMPSONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the North Thompsonville Fire Department. The NTFD is led by Chief Earl Provencher and Deputy Chiefs Douglas Maxellon and David Lapponese who are all prepared to lead a group of firefighters, or the entire department if necessary, into any situation. Chairman

Ralph Jensen heads the board of five fire commissioners. Since its first meeting in the Manning Barn on February 16, 1914, the fire department has grown steadily. Today, the station serves as a second home to the 46 men and women who proudly serve the 10,000 people of their district.

Through the years, the North Thompsonville Fire Department has expanded to better meet the needs of the community. By 1929, they had moved out of the Thompsonville Water Company Pumping Station and into their first fire station. In 1969, with more than 50 active members, the department hired the first part-time employees and named its first Fire Fighter of the Year, Ernest W. Deford. A generous donation from the John Maciolek Post of the American Legion in 1973 revolutionized the way the department responded to motor vehicle accidents. Believed to have the second set of Jaws of Life in the State of Connecticut, the department's use of this life-saving tool made critical rescues safer and more effective.

In 2009, the department proudly honored Deputy Chief Ken "Pops" Provencher for his 50 years of service. In 2012, they also gave this distinguished honor to Captain Patrick Griffin just before he passed away. The following year, department again had the privilege of honoring Captain Ralph Jensen, Sr. These men started as cadets and worked through the ranks from firefighter all the way up their respective ranks at retirement. All three continued their careers by becoming Fire Commissioners. The district, the members, and the citizens of the North Thompsonville Fire District thanked these men for their combined 150 years of service.

In 2012, the North Thompsonville Fire Department responded to 502 calls including structure, vehicle, brush and incidental fires, hazardous material incidents, mutual aid assignments, and medical emergencies. The department spent over 2,900 hours responding to emergencies and an additional 4,100 hours in training.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in congratulating the North Thompsonville Fire Department on the 100th anniversary and commend them for the work they do each day to keep their community safe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight cancellation and airline delays, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, January 27. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 24, regarding H.R. 2166, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 25, regarding H.R. 3008.

REMEMBERING COLONEL (U.S. ARMY RETIRED) WILLIAM EDWARD CALLENDER, SR.

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember the life of Colonel